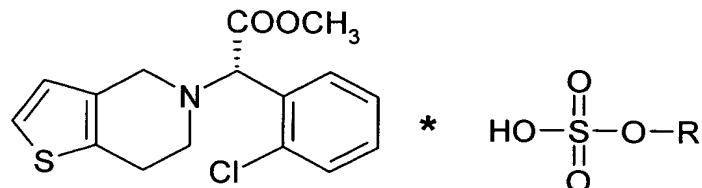


**CLAIMS**

1. A clopidogrel salt having the following formula (I)



wherein R is a straight or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkyl group.

2. A clopidogrel salt as claimed in claim 1, wherein R is a straight or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl group.

10 3. A clopidogrel as claimed in claim 1, which is:

clopidogrel-methyl sulfate; clopidogrel-ethyl sulfate; clopidogrel-propyl sulfate; clopidogrel-isopropyl sulfate; clopidogrel-butyl sulfate; clopidogrel-sec-butyl sulfate; clopidogrel-isobutyl sulfate or clopidogrel-tert-butyl sulfate.

15 4. A pharmaceutical composition comprising as active ingredient a clopidogrel salt, as claimed in claim 1, and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient and/or carrier.

5. A process for the purification of clopidogrel or clopidogrel hemisulfate, comprising respectively:

20 a) reaction of clopidogrel with concentrated sulfuric acid in a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkanol; or

b) reaction of clopidogrel hemisulfate with a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkanol; or

c) salification of clopidogrel with an alkylsulfuric acid of formula

R-O-S(O)<sub>3</sub>H, wherein R is as claimed in claim 1;

and conversion of the resulting clopidogrel C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkyl sulfate salt to clopidogrel (base) and, if desired, salification to clopidogrel hemisulfate.

25 6. Highly pure clopidogrel and clopidogrel hemisulfate as obtainable

according to the purification process as claimed in claim 5.

7. Crystalline form of a clopidogrel salt as claimed in claim 1.